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DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1956

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H. M. DAVIES,
M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER:
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
DAWLISH U.D.C.
NEWTON ABBOT R.D.C. - -
NEWTON ABBOT U.D.C.
TEIGNMOUTH U.D.C. AND
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

KINGSTEIGNTON ROAD.

NEWTON ABBOT.

DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT - 1956

Mr Chairman and Councillors,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for the year ended the 31st.
December, 1956.

The Death rate, corrected by a factor allowing for the preponderance of older people in this Urban District, is, once again, below that for England and Wales. The comparative figures for the past six years are of interest:-

	<u>Dawlish</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1951	11.26	12.5
1952	8.78	11.3
1953	11.55	11.4
1954	9.09	11.3
1955	11.39	11.7
1956	10.40	11.5

The Birth rate calls for no special comment, but it is noteworthy that there were no Maternal deaths during the year; nor were there any deaths in children under the age of one year.

With regard to the Infectious Disease which occurred, the number of cases of Measles notified showed the low incidence expected in alternate years and the thirty six cases of Whooping Cough cannot be considered high. This may well be due to the increased number of infants who are receiving immunisation against Whooping Cough in the early months of life. The decline in the incidence of Tuberculosis continues and only three cases were notified as opposed to the seven cases in 1955.

The problem associated with old people continues and the difficulty in obtaining suitable accommodation for persons who need care and attention becomes more acute each year. In particular I would refer to those frail aged persons who require ground floor accommodation: persons such as these are not regarded as in need of a Hospital bed, nor is the County Council able to provide enough Welfare accommodation for them.

Camping continues to increase each year and each year fields are used which do not have the basic requirements of a pure water supply and a system of sanitation. It appears to me that one must recognise that the campers are coming to this part of the country irrespective of any consideration, and unless we are prepared to accept the risk associated with the use of fields without sanitary arrangements, there is no alternative but to see that the facilities are made available for the requisite six to eight weeks in each year.

Complaints are received each year about the fouling of the beaches with sewage. The solution lies in the Council's major scheme of works and it is to be hoped that a start on the work will not be unduly delayed.

Finally I would point out again that meat from the two slaughterhouses in Dawlish is not fully inspected, and there is a risk that diseased meat may be offered for human consumption. A full inspection is not possible with the present inadequate staff, and the only satisfactory solution is for the Council to employ an additional qualified Inspector.

I should like once again to thank the Chairman, Councillors, and all members of the staff for the help and co-operation received during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1958.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	6,091
Population Mid 1956	7,130
Population 1951 Census	7,512
Rateable Value as at 1st. January, 1956	£ 56,920
Rateable Value as at 31st. December, 1956	£ 97,435
Product of 1d. rate as at 1st. April, 1956	£ 393

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	35	32	67
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	<u>36</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>70</u>

Crude Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	9.80
Corrected Live Birth rate per 1000 total population	11.08
Crude Live Birth rate Administrative County of Devon	12.96
Corrected Live Birth rate Administrative County of Devon	14.77
Live Birth rate per 1000 total population England and Wales	16.1

STILL BIRTHS

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Still Birth rate per 1000 total population			0.14
Still Birth rate per 1000 total live and still births			14.08
Corresponding rate England and Wales			22.4

DEATHS.

The average age at death, from all causes, was found to be 69.33 years. It is of interest to note that the average age of all male deaths was 67.17 years and for female deaths 71.05 years.

	Male	Female	Total
	45	58	103
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population			14.45
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population			10.40
Crude Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			14.48
Corrected Death rate per 1000 total population Administrative County of Devon			11.15
Death rate per 1000 total population England and Wales			11.5

Infant Mortality.

(Deaths of Infants under One year)

No deaths occurred in Infants under One year in this District during 1956.

Infant Mortality rate (Death of Infants under One year)
per 1000 related live births - England and Wales 23.7

Neo-Natal Mortality

(Death of Infants under Four weeks)

No deaths occurred in Infants under Four weeks in this District during 1956.

Neo-Natal Mortality rate (Death of Infants under Four weeks)
per 1000 related live births - England and Wales 16.8

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred in this District during 1956. Three maternal deaths occurred within the Administrative County of Devon.

AGE AT DEATH

	Male	Female
1 -	-	1
5 -	-	-
..	carried forward	1
- 4 -		

AGE AT DEATH (Continued)

	Male	Female
brought forward	-	1
15 -	-	1
25 -	4	1
45 -	17	11
65 -	10	13
75 and over	14	31
	<hr/> 45	<hr/> 58

Total: 103

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male	Female
All causes	45	58
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	2
Diabetes	-	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	5	15
Coronary disease, angina	3	2
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
Other heart disease	13	14
Other circulatory disease	1	2
Influenza	-	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	-	1
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 52
carried forward	37	52

CAUSES OF DEATH (continued)

	Male	Female
brought forward	37	52
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	4
All accidents (other than motor vehicle)	1	2
	<hr/> 45 <hr/>	<hr/> 58 <hr/>

Total: 103

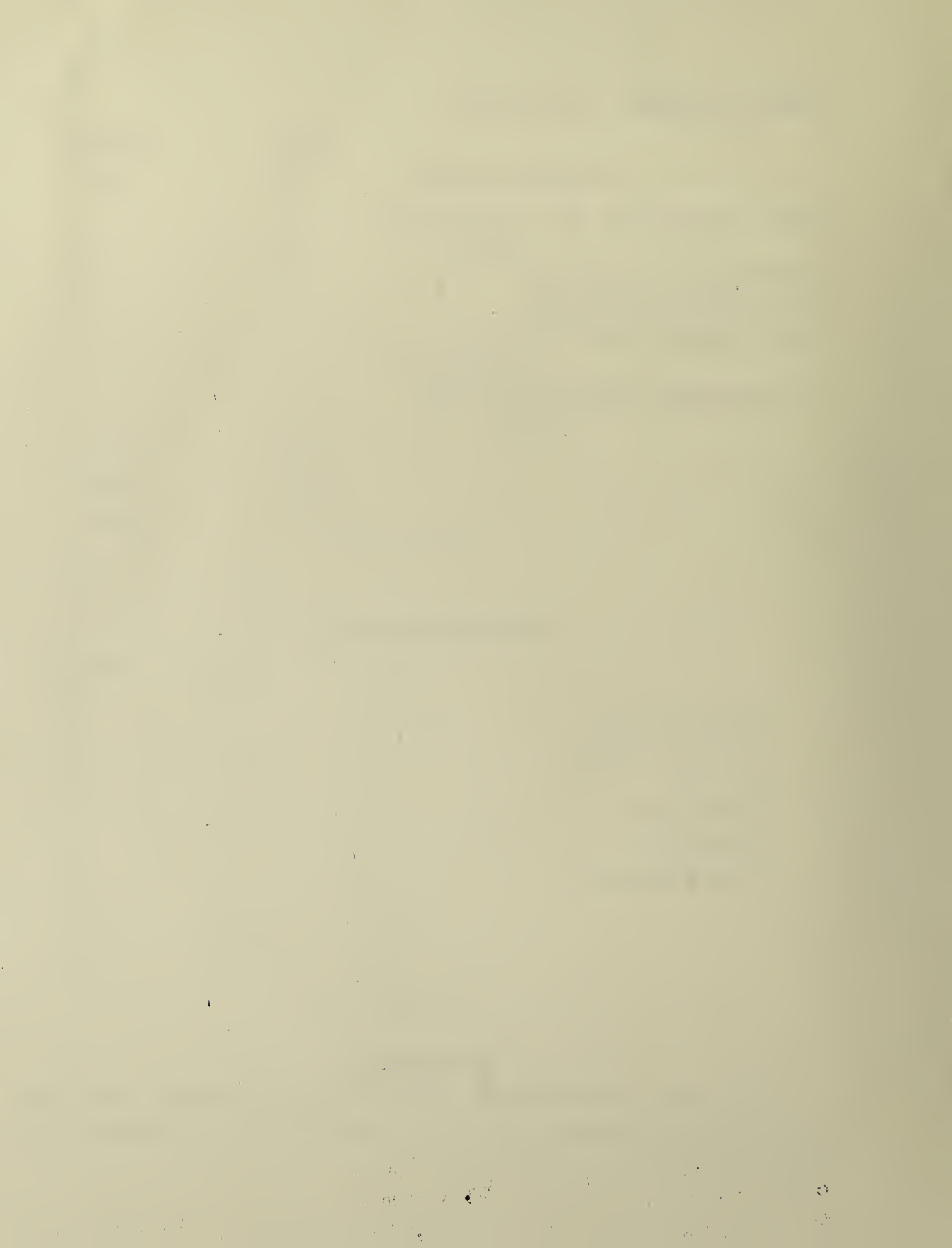
INFECTIOUS DISEASES

	Male	Female	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2
Whooping Cough	16	20	36
Measles	5	3	8
Dysentery	1	-	1
Pneumonia	3	-	3
Food Poisoning	1	1	2
	<hr/> 27 <hr/>	<hr/> 25 <hr/>	<hr/> 52 <hr/>

Total: 52

TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases of pulmonary, one male and one female, and one case of non-pulmonary, one male, tuberculosis were notified in the District during 1956.



NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 AND 1951

Official action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 was necessary in two cases during 1956.

HOUSING.

Good progress has been made in the rate of construction of the twenty two bungalows on the Manor Field and the completion and occupation of them will go a long way in meeting the urgent demands associated with the housing of aged persons.

A review has been made of houses likely to fall short of minimum standards of fitness to enable consideration to be given to the preparation of Slum Clearance proposals.

There is still a strong demand for houses to meet general needs particularly from applicants in the smaller family groups.
